

Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel Claim 1 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please add new Claims 11-25 to read as follows.

Claims 1-10 (cancelled)

11. (New) An ink jet printing apparatus for printing on a printing medium with a printing head for ejecting ink, said apparatus comprising:

feeding means for feeding the printing medium toward the printing head;

scanning means for scanning the printing head in a scanning direction different from a feeding direction of the printing medium fed by said feeding means;

detection means for detecting an edge of the printing medium fed by said feeding means; and

control means for controlling the driving of said feeding means so as to (1) cause said feeding means to initiate the feeding of a succeeding printing medium after said feeding means initiates the feeding of a preceding printing medium and before said detection means detects a trailing edge of the preceding printing medium and (2) cause a leading edge of the succeeding printing medium to arrive at said detection means after said detection means detects the trailing edge of the preceding printing medium.

12. (New) An ink jet printing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein on the basis of information specifying the length in the feeding direction of the preceding printing medium, said feeding means initiates the feeding of the succeeding printing medium.

13. (New) An ink jet printing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said control means executes feeding control when determined that the feeding of the succeeding printing medium is necessary during printing on the preceding printing medium.

14. (New) An ink jet printing method for printing on a printing medium by scanning a printing head for ejecting ink, said method comprising the steps of:

feeding a printing medium toward the printing head;

scanning the printing head in a scanning direction different from a feeding direction of the printing medium;

initiating the feeding of a succeeding printing medium toward the printing head after the feeding of a preceding printing medium is initiated and before a trailing edge of the preceding printing medium is detected at a predetermined position; and

feeding the succeeding printing medium so that a leading edge of the succeeding printing medium arrives at the predetermined position after the trailing edge of the preceding printing medium is detected at the predetermined position.

15. (New) An ink jet printing apparatus for printing on a printing medium with a printing head for ejecting ink, said apparatus comprising:

feeding means for feeding the printing medium toward the printing head;

scanning means for scanning the printing head in a scanning direction different from a feeding direction of the printing medium fed by said feeding means;

detection means for detecting an edge of the printing medium fed by said feeding means; and

control means for controlling the driving of said feeding means so as to cause said feeding means to initiate the feeding of a succeeding printing medium after said feeding means initiates the feeding of a preceding printing medium and before said detection means detects a trailing edge of the preceding printing medium,

wherein said control means causes said feeding means to initiate the feeding of the succeeding printing medium on the basis of information specifying the length in the feeding direction of the preceding printing medium.

16. (New) An ink jet printing apparatus according to claim 15, wherein said control means executes feeding control when determined that the feeding of the succeeding printing medium is necessary during printing on the preceding printing medium.

17. (New) An ink jet printing apparatus for printing on a printing medium with a printing head for ejecting ink, said apparatus comprising:

feeding means for feeding the printing medium toward the printing head;
scanning means for scanning the printing head in a scanning direction
different from a feeding direction of the printing medium fed by said feeding means;
detection means for detecting an edge of the printing medium fed by said
feeding means; and
control means that (1) causes said feeding means to initiate the feeding of a
succeeding printing medium on the basis of information specifying the length in the
feeding direction of a preceding printing medium, after said feeding means initiates the
feeding of the preceding printing medium and before said detection means detects a trailing
edge of the preceding printing medium, and (2) thereby causes a leading edge of the
succeeding printing medium to arrive at said detection means after said detection means
detects the trailing edge of the preceding printing medium.

18. (New) An ink jet printing apparatus according to claim 17, wherein
said control means executes feeding control when determined that the feeding of the
succeeding printing medium is necessary during printing on the preceding printing
medium.

19. (New) A method of feeding a printing medium in an ink jet printing
apparatus for printing on the printing medium with a printing head for ejecting ink, said
method comprising the steps of:

feeding the printing medium toward the printing head;

scanning the printing head in a scanning direction different from a feeding direction of the printing medium;

detecting an edge of the printing medium fed in said feeding step by edge detection means at a predetermined position; and

controlling a feeding operation in said feeding step so as to (1) cause initiation of the feeding of a succeeding printing medium after the feeding of a preceding printing medium is initiated in said feeding step and before a trailing edge of the preceding printing medium is detected at the predetermined position and (2) cause a leading edge of the succeeding printing medium to arrive at the predetermined position after the trailing edge of the preceding printing medium is detected at the predetermined position.

20. (New) A method according to claim 19, wherein based on information specifying the length in the feeding direction of the preceding printing medium, the feeding of the succeeding printing medium is initiated.

21. (New) A method of feeding a printing medium in an ink jet printing apparatus for printing on the printing medium with a printing head for ejecting ink, said method comprising the steps of:

feeding the printing medium toward the printing head;

scanning the printing head in a scanning direction different from a feeding direction of the printing medium;

detecting an edge of the printing medium fed in said feeding step at a predetermined position; and

controlling the feeding operation in said feeding step so as to initiate the feeding of a succeeding printing medium after the feeding of a preceding printing medium is initiated in said feeding step and before a trailing edge of the preceding printing medium is detected at the predetermined position,

wherein in said controlling step the feeding of the succeeding printing medium is initiated on the basis of information capable of specifying the length in the feeding direction of the preceding printing medium.

22. (New) A method of feeding a printing medium in an ink jet printing apparatus for printing on the printing medium with a printing head for ejecting ink, said method comprising the steps of:

feeding the printing medium toward the printing head;

scanning the printing head in a scanning direction different from a feeding direction of the printing medium;

detecting an edge of the printing medium fed in said feeding step at a predetermined position; and

executing control so as to (1) initiate the feeding of a succeeding printing medium in said feeding step based on information specifying the length in the feeding direction of a preceding printing medium, after the feeding of the preceding printing medium is initiated in said feeding step and before a trailing edge of the preceding printing

medium is detected at the predetermined position, and (2) thereby cause a leading edge of the succeeding printing medium to arrive at the predetermined position after the trailing edge of the preceding printing medium is detected at the predetermined position.

23. (New) An ink jet printing apparatus for printing on a printing medium with a printing head for ejecting ink, said apparatus comprising:

- feeding means for feeding the printing medium toward the printing head;
- scanning means for scanning the printing head in a scanning direction different from a feeding direction of the printing medium fed by said feeding means;
- detection means for detecting an edge of the printing medium fed by said feeding means; and
- control means for controlling the driving of said feeding means so as to cause said feeding means to initiate the feeding of a succeeding printing medium after said feeding means initiates the feeding of a preceding printing medium and before said detection means detects a trailing edge of the preceding printing medium.

24. (New) An ink jet printing apparatus according to claim 23, wherein said control means executes feeding control when determined that the feeding of the succeeding printing medium is necessary during printing on the preceding printing medium.

25. (New) A method of feeding a printing medium in an ink jet printing apparatus for printing on the printing medium with a printing head for ejecting ink, said method comprising the steps of:

feeding the printing medium toward the printing head;

scanning the printing head in a scanning direction different from a feeding direction of the printing medium;

detecting an edge of the printing medium fed in said feeding step by edge detection means; and

controlling the feeding operation in said feeding step so as to initiate the feeding of a succeeding printing medium after the feeding of a preceding printing medium is initiated in said feeding step and before the edge detection means detects a trailing edge of the preceding printing medium.